

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING
Division of Home and Community Living
Older Adult Programs Branch

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PROGRAM MEMO

TO: Financial Alignment Contracted AAAs

NO: 22-16

DATE ISSUED: July 22, 2022

EXPIRES: N/A

PROGRAMS AFFECTED: Financial Alignment

SUPERSEDES: N/A

SUBJECT: Expiration of Financial Alignment Initiative Funding for Contracted Area Agencies on Aging.

PURPOSE: This Program Memo (PM) confirms that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services funded Financial Alignment Initiative (FA) one-on-one counseling program will expire on October 31, 2022.

Background

Since 2013, CMS has awarded the California Department of Aging (CDA) with FA grant funding to support local HICAPs to provide outreach, education, and counseling to help dual eligible beneficiaries understand their health and Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) options available through Cal MediConnect demonstration plans in the seven Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) counties – Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, and Santa Clara.

The Cal MediConnect demonstration is a FA pilot program between California's Medi-Cal program and the federal Medicare program to coordinate Medicare and Medi-Cal LTSS for dual eligible beneficiaries. Cal MediConnect is part of California's larger Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) authorized pursuant to SB 1008 (Chapter 33, Statutes of 2012) and SB 1036 (Chapter 45, Statutes of 2012).

On December 29, 2021, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) received approval of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Section 1115 demonstration waiver, CalAIM Section 1915(b) waiver, and Medi-Cal State Plan Amendments from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Through CalAIM and starting on January 1, 2023, Cal MediConnect enrollees will be transitioned to exclusively aligned enrollment (EAE) Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) and matching Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs). Dual eligible beneficiaries in these counties will no longer have Cal MediConnect as a plan option, and the demonstration will have concluded.

General Guidance

FA-2122 contracts with participating AAAs are the final FA program contracts to be released by the California Department of Aging. The FA-2122 contract end date is October 31, 2022. The contract end date is aligned with the end date of the federal grant year.

California's FA One-on-One Counseling Program provided by AAAs/HICAPs in the CCI Counties will permanently expire on October 31, 2022.

For the duration of the FA-2122 contract term, AAAs should continue to provide FA activities as outlined in the FA-2122 Standard Agreement. All contract responsibilities remain in effect as outlined in the agreement.

At the initial release of the FA-2122 contract, AAAs were instructed to include in their FA Work Plans, elements that align with CalAIM initiatives to transition the Cal MediConnect demonstration to a statewide MLTSS and Dual-Eligible Special Needs Plan aligned enrollment structure.

AAAs may request to revise their FA-2122 Work Plans by contacting the CDA HICAP Team.

Eligibility for HICAP Services

All FA contracted AAAs operate HICAPs in their Planning and Service Areas.

Following the expiration of the FA program, consumers that are dually eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal will continue to be eligible for HICAP services.

HICAP provides Medicare beneficiaries and those imminent of becoming eligible for Medicare with counseling and advocacy as to Medicare, private health insurance, and related health care coverage plans.

Inquires

For questions regarding this PM, email: CDA.HICAP.Team@aging.ca.gov.

/s/

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